

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

Listing of Claims: Claims 1-62 (canceled).

62. (previously presented) An ex vivo method of promoting proliferation of a hematopoietic stem cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 85% 95% identical to the amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 13, 32 or 34 or the mature protein coding portion thereof and exhibits stem cell growth factor activity, and wherein said amount is effective to promote proliferation of said cell.

63. (canceled)

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 or 76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

65. (currently amended) An ex vivo method of promoting proliferation of a hematopoietic stem cell ~~or primordial germ cell~~ comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or the mature protein coding portion thereof, under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C,

wherein the amount is effective to promote proliferation of said cell.

Claims 66-73 (canceled)

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 or 76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 or 76, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 34, or the mature protein coding portion thereof.

76. (previously presented) An ex vivo method of maintaining survival of a hemoatropoietic stem cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 13, 32 or 34 or the mature protein coding portion thereof and exhibits stem cell growth factor activity, and wherein said amount is effective to maintain survival of said cell.

77. (previously presented) An ex vivo method of maintaining survival of a hematopoietic stem cell comprising contacting said cell with an amount of a polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 12, or the mature protein coding portion thereof, under the following stringent conditions: a final wash of 0.1x SSC/0.1% SDS at 68°C, wherein the amount is effective to maintain survival of said cell.